

WHOLE NUMBER 6,846

P. S. KARLIN,
Ex-Off. Board of Health

Miscellaneous.

CHRISTMAS
PAPERS.

London News, London Graphic,
Yule Tide, Father Christmas,
Figaro, Paris Illustrate,
Pictorial World, Holly Leaves,
Lady's Pictorial. Chatterbox,
Harper's Weekly, Leslie's,
Puck, Judge.

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Farm and Family

The Cost of Poor Roads.

Here is a little item, received from a correspondent, that may serve to illustrate in a very small way the cost of poor roads: "On account of the bad condition of the roads potatoes have advanced at Veigennes to sixty-five cents per bushel." Another correspondent writes us that the other day the farmers could not afford to take their milk to the creamery, in their teams because of the trouble and time necessary in order to carry it over the muddy roads to the creamery, the farmers finding it more profitable to feed sweet milk to stock than attempt its transportation. When the people can be made to understand that it actually costs more in time and money to travel over a poor road than it does to travel over a good one they will be less inclined to begrudge the first expense of good roads, and what is of more importance still, will be willing and anxious to put the business of road making into the hands of intelligent men who understand the business. Poor roads are the expensive things that cause a country district.—(Huntington Free Press.)

Care of Wagons.

Wagons should be kept well greased. Grease them than horse-drawn, and as the roads in the winter season are not always paved with the use of light, wagon, the draft on the horses should be kept at the minimum point, and greasing the axles will largely contribute to lessen the wear and tear of the wagons as well as the labor of the horse.

When spokes and fellow spokes and wagon tires become loose, it is the custom to have the tires reset, at the usual expense of fifty cents each. It is far cheaper and better for the horse to retighten the entire woodwork with hot, fluted oil. It can be applied with a rag tied to a stick. This fills the pores and causes the timber to swell and fill the tires as when new. With a coat of hot oil once in a year or two there will be no loose tires and the wheels will last much longer.—(EX.)

Agricultural Notes and Hints.

The best way to apply salt to land is to mix it with the lime or ashes, one bushel of salt to ten of the lime or ashes being the proper proportion. It renders the lime more soluble, due to chemical action.

Corn husks make excellent material for mattresses, if properly prepared, which can be done during the winter, at times when storms prevent other work; but it is doubtful if it will pay for the labor bestowed.

When a flock of hens do not pay, the best plan is to pick out the ones that are laying and sell off the others. It is sometimes the case that there are too many of them together. A few hens well kept will produce more eggs, proportionally, than a large number.

Every farm should have a few grape vines. They serve as arbors or shade, and can be grown where they will not take up much space. All poultry yards will be improved if grape vines are grown along the fences, and the fowls will find shade under the overhanging branches in summer.

In Ohio the walking gait of horse is encouraged. At the state fair a walking match was arranged, the time for four miles of a mile varying from 4:10 to 4:15. Each horse drew half a ton of coal. It is worthy of being a part of the programme at all fairs, as the walking gait receives more attention than it has received.

Make a note of things not yet attended to. Hundreds of little things about every farm need attention. Each one of these considered alone is of small importance, but when aggregated they make a large total. Make notes of these things as you pass about, and don't fail to make frequent reference to your memorandum book.

The personal qualities of the animals to be used in breeding are more important than those of their ancestors; the qualities of parents more important than grandparents, and vastly more important than those of any more remote ancestors. The offspring resembles the parent much more frequently than it does some more remote ancestor.

If the butter is thoroughly worked to remove all the white flakes of curd, it will need much less salt. It is the impurities of butter, and especially its exposure to air, that cause its quick decay. The public taste of late years requires much less salt in butter than it used to do, and to make little salt essential necessitates all the greater care for the buttermaker. Over-salting is therefore presumptive evidence that salt has been added to cover defects arising from ignorance, laziness and general want of cleanliness.

Manure and Coal Ashes.

The recent experiment as to the value of coal ashes for sandy soil reads very curiously to one who closely examined it. The experimenter applied about twenty loads of coal ashes to two acres, and afterwards, "with a light dressing of manure," secured a good catch of clover where clover never grew before. In this case to what is the success due, to the ashes or the manure? If part of the land had been treated with only one of the applications it would have been a test. As it is, most farmers will believe the credit due to the manure, whose value they know, rather than to the coal ashes. The potash in wood ashes is valuable for sandy soil, and on very light and even coal ashes may be beneficial in preventing the soil from blowing away.—(Am. Cultivator.)

Girdling Grape Vines.

At the suggestion of Prof. Maynard, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, Dr. Jabez Fisher, of Fitchburg, each of sixty Concord grape vines on the 4th of July last, taking out a ring of bark half an inch long near the trunk of the vine. As a result the grapes on these vines showed color six days before those on the opposite side. They were fit for market September 21, or some ten days in advance of the others, and the berries were much larger and sweeter. The gain in earliness makes a great difference in the price of the fruit, and later varieties could be grown when this method is used. The grapes are larger and more attractive, and this would counterbalance the softness of the berries, a condition which the girdling seems to cause.

Profits of Dairying.

While the production of meat is an expensive method of human food, that of milk, butter and cheese is as good a way for getting the greatest amount from the land as most kinds of grain growing. A good yield will from an acre yield more, both in milk and butter, than can be made in any other way. In Prof. Henry's experiments an acre of corn produced sufficient grain to make 2244 pounds of milk, or 324

pounds of butter, and in the same crop enough stalks to make 2321 pounds of milk, or 115 pounds of butter. With the best cows, therefore, an acre of land may be made to produce more of salable product than by selling the grain. The cow also helps to keep up the fertility of the soil by furnishing manure. If only the butter is sold there is left a large amount of skim-milk, which may be fed to hogs, and thus give additional manure and also greater profit.—(Cultivator.)

Household Hints.

Put dishes, tumblers and other glass articles into a kettle, cover them entirely with cold water, and put the kettle where it will soon boil. When it has boiled a few minutes, set it aside covered close. When the water is cold take out the glass. This process will harden the articles so that they will not be so easily broken.

Equal parts of ammonia and turpentine will take paint out of clothing, even if it be hard and dry. Saturate the spots as often as necessary, and wash out in soap.

Fish gill-nets should be scoured with bath-brick powder or whiting every time they are used, in order to keep them perfectly smooth and clean; otherwise they will torment the fish by sticking and tearing the fish. When there is no special fish-gill-net, the ordinary boiler must be scoured after using it, to prevent sticking and destroy any remaining odor or flavor which the fish might communicate to meat or poultry broiled upon it.

When the glass globes of chandeliers have become smoked and gummy, soak them in hot water to which a little sal soda has been added. Then put some ammonia into hot water, enter the globes and scrub briskly with a stiff brush. Rinse thoroughly and wipe dry.

Ready-made clothing, whether upper or under garments, should have all the buttons sewed on more securely before they are worn. Those on underclothing are usually held by "a stitch and a promise," and they are lost the first time they are laundered. Those on children's suits are difficult to match, and a new suit soon loses its family freshness if fastened with odd buttons.

One or two tablespoonsful of ammonia added to a pail of water will clean windows better than soap.

A teaspoonful of borax added to cold starch will make clothes stiffer than anything else I ever tried, though it adds no polish.

When troubled with soreness of face or sore throat, dampen a flannel cloth with rose-water, and apply over the spot. Do not leave it on too long, or it will blister. One night will usually relieve the soreness.

One teaspoonful of ammonia to a teaspoonful of water will clean gold or silver jewelry. A few drops of aqua ammonia poured on the underside of diamonds will clean them immediately, making them very brilliant.

Confectioner's sugar is a very fine powdered sugar, called by the trade "XX." For all candy-making, icings, sherbets, and sweets in general, this sugar is preferable to either cut-loaf or granulated, and its cost is about equal.

Great improvement will be found in tea and coffee if they are kept in glass fruit jars instead of tin boxes.

The precipitation of a large quantity of cold food into the stomach by fast eating, and, often, dense, cause indigestion and indigestion, and every occasion of this kind results in a measurable injury to the digestive function. Water drunk with cold food of course increases the mischief. Hot drinks, hot water, mint tea, coffee, chocolate, etc., will, on the contrary, help to prevent it. But eat slowly, anyway.

Pour about one quart of boiling water over a pound of gum arabic, stir and soak until the gum is dissolved, then strain through a fine cloth and bottle for use. Add one tablespoonful of this to each pint of starch. See that your iron is perfectly smooth and free from rust, and the polishing iron in good condition and used rapidly over the linen. Just before using the polishing iron, moisten the collars and cuffs with a very weak solution of this gum arabic water. After a little practice you will be able to get a perfect gloss.

Recipes for the Table.

RAISIN PIE.—One lemon, juice and rind, one cupful of water, one cupful of rolled crackers; stone the raisins and boil till soft; grate the lemon rind, mix well together, and bake with two crusts.

CARROT CHOPS.—Mash finely some boiled carrots, with butter, pepper and salt; add a beaten egg, and mix well; shape with the hands like a chop; dip in egg and bread-crumbs and fry brown in butter; serve with gravy or melted butter.

APPLE CUSTARD PIE.—Take a pint of stewed apples, and with them mix four ounces of butter, half a pound of powdered sugar, a little powdered cinnamon, and the yolks of six eggs, well beaten. Lard a pie plate with butter; fill with the mixture; bake; serve cold with cream.

LEMON PIE.—Roll three lemons till soft. Take out the seeds and juice and add the very fine. To the juice and peel add two cups of chopped raisins, two cups of molasses, and two cups of crackers. Stir it well, adding one cup of water. This will make four pies.

MACARONI WITH CHEESE.—Prepare macaroni with cream sauce, and pour into a buttered scalloped dish. Have half a cup of grated cheese and put a cup of bread or cracker crumbs mixed, sprinkle over the macaroni and place in the oven to brown; it will take about twenty minutes.

FRESH SOUP.—Put together in a soup-kettle about six pounds of beef, one pound of veal bones, a piece of calf's liver and a couple of chickens' heads; cover with four quarts of cold water, and let it boil up a few minutes. Skim, and add a couple of turnips, two or three leeks, a headful celery, a burnt onion, removing the same carefully as it rises. Serve with bits of fried or toasted bread.

BAKED PARSNIPS.—Having washed and scraped your parsnips, cut them into pieces and cook them in little water as possible. Let them get quite tender, being careful that there is just enough water always on them to keep them quite wet. When done put them into a pan; pour over them the water left from boiling them, and brown in a hot oven, basting often.

LAYER CAKE.—Four eggs well beaten, one and one-half cups of flour, two teaspoonsful of yeast powder, four tablespoonsful of water, and flavoring to suit taste. This will make five layers in a party cake. Give each layer a good beating, and bake as quickly as possible without burning. In receipt just

given, anything desired may be put between the layers, though most are partial to cream filling.

CRISP FILLING.—One cup of milk, one-half cup of sugar, one heaping teaspoonful of butter, and three heaping teaspoonsful of corn starch. Dissolve the corn starch in a little of the milk, and cook all together until it comes to a boil. Put the vessel with the mixture in it into another with hot water, and then the cream will not burn, but it should be stirred easier if used while warm.

BEST BISCUITS.—Chop the same cold roast beef, season it well with salt and pepper, and to each half-pint of this add a tablespoonful of chopped parsley and a half-cup of bread crumbs, then add two whole eggs, and work the mixture to a smooth paste. Form into balls, dip in egg and then in bread crumbs and fry in smoking hot fat. Serve with a nice, brown sauce poured around them.

WHEAT CAKES.—One-half tablespoon butter, one tablespoon sugar, two eggs, one milk, 14 cups wheat flour, a little salt, teaspoon cream of tartar and a half-teaspoon soda. This recipe makes twelve cakes. It can be doubled for a larger quantity.

SAUCE FOR PRIMAVER.—Cream one cup of sugar with half a cup of butter; add half a cup of hot, not scalded, milk; beat one egg and pour on top, flavoring to taste.

HONEY CAKES.—Beat to a cream a quarter of a pound of butter, then add gradually to it a pint of strained honey. Dissolve a level teaspoonful of baking soda in two tablespoonsful of vinegar, add this to the mixture, and then stir in sufficient sifted flour to make a stiff paste. Work until perfectly smooth, roll out a half-inch thick, cut into cakes and bake in a quick oven about fifteen minutes. Watch carefully, as they burn easily.

CHEESE AND PRIMAVER.—Put a pint of milk and a half a cup of sugar in a double boiler, and when it boils thick, mix with two heaping tablespoonsful of cornstarch in a little cold milk; let it cook a few minutes, remove from the stove and beat in the whites of two eggs beaten to a stiff froth. Pour this into the dish you wish to serve it in, and when it is cold pour a custard over it made of one pint of milk and a half-cup of sugar, and when this boils add the yolks of the eggs and one teaspoonful of vanilla, the whole to be eaten cold.

Household Fancy Work.

HINTS ON DRAPERIES.

This subject is of interest to every housewife, but, being exhaustless and with the limited space necessary, it is impossible to do more than touch upon a few of the materials in general use, but, perhaps, fully enough to start anyone interested in home decorative work to thinking further for themselves in this dainty and interesting branch.

In the arrangement of the draperies themselves, no more the plain and simple folds of raw, heavy silk from pole to pole, but something of style and daintiness in the folds and frills of the design.

There is a wide selection in materials. Among the prettiest of the inexpensive materials are those of a cream ground, with their dots in old pink, blue, yellow, etc. India silks are extremely popular, beautiful in design, light and silky in material, and have the added merit of being low in price. They are very pretty for the lower side of a window.

It is surprising how very popular curtains reaching to the window sill are. They may be made of muslins, silks or net, faces, looped back about half-way down the window with cord and tassels to match, often with a wide ribbon. Long curtains are used with these in one like.

Crinolines are desirable where finer goods are not necessary. Boateille is a heavy, rich material, all silk. One very elegant set of curtains is gobelet blue with gold design, lined with gold satin.

For a low-priced and attractive drapery, grenadine stripes is much used and liked. This goods comes in a plain gold ground, with quite narrow stripes of rich colors running through it. Deep fringes made to match the colors in the curtains are made in different widths, in silks, woolsens and cottons.

Well-chosen draperies are the making of a room. A simple room with effective draperies will present a much more cozy and pleasant appearance than a much more elegant room without draperies.

INSERTION FOR NARROW SAWTOOTH LACE.

Make a chain of ten stitches; turn. 1st row—Make a shell of 3 treble, 1 chain, 3 treble in fourth stitch from hook, 6 chain, shell in last stitch of chain, 5 chain; turn. 2d row—Shell in shell, 6 chain, shell in shell, one single in last stitch of shell in preceding row, 5 chain; turn. 3d row—Shell in shell, 6 chain, shell in shell, one single in last stitch of shell in preceding row, 5 chain; turn. 4th row—Shell in shell, 6 chain, shell in shell, one single in last stitch of shell in preceding row, 5 chain; turn. 5th row—Shell in shell, 6 chain, shell in shell, one single in last stitch of shell in preceding row, 5 chain; turn. 6th row—Shell in shell, 6 chain, shell in shell, one single in last stitch of shell in preceding row, 5 chain; turn. 7th row—Shell in shell, 6 chain, shell in shell, one single in last stitch of shell in preceding row, 5 chain; turn. 8th row—Shell in shell, 6 chain, shell in shell, one single in last stitch of shell in preceding row, 5 chain; turn. 9th row—Shell in shell, 6 chain, shell in shell, one single in last stitch of shell in preceding row, 5 chain; turn. 10th row—Shell in shell, 6 chain, shell in shell, one single in last stitch of shell in preceding row, 5 chain; turn.

Repeat from 1st row, and when the next 3 chains of 6 stitches are caught together, the corner of the block just made must be caught with them, and continue in this manner till the desired length is made.

HINTS FOR EASY WORK.

A large cow bell, decorated with a velvet scene or butterflies and daisies, is seen among fashionable women's bric-a-brac. Anyone who can use a brush can decorate one in a pretty way at only a trifling expense.

A pair of infant's shoes, filled with curled hair, with a pretty crocheted cover, and held together by tiny bows of narrow satin ribbon, make a nice receiver for hat and hair pins.

No matter how pretty a bracelet or ornament which it supports, it can almost always be improved by an attractive scarf. If the reader possesses a pretty silk handkerchief which is new and fresh, it may be converted into a "thing of beauty" by sewing plush or gilded ornaments across two sides, and shirring it a little one side of the center, so that one end will be longer than the other. Conceal the shirring with a bow of ribbon that harmonizes well with the handkerchief. Drape the corner of the scarf over one corner of a bracelet and see how pretty it looks.

Take three tiny bags, 24 inches wide and four inches long, of different colors, put a draw-string through the three so that they will pull up as one bag. They are called Yum Yum Bags.

An exceedingly pretty adjunct to a toilet table is a little bag crocheted of two colors of knitting silk; for instance, gold blue and pink. Set up 64 stitches in the chain for the length of the bag,

Cherish in plain crocheted stitch 11 rows of blue, then tie in the blue and crocheted 11 rows of blue, join together and crocheted a scallop all around of both colors. Leave the top open. Make a bag of white flannel, just the size to slip in the crocheted cover, fill with Lullaby's baby powder and tie it up like a flour bag by running in a thick ribbon. It is very much nicer than a powder puff and much prettier.

Browning's Energy.

The energy of action in Browning's work has also continued for much in the appeal to his contemporaries. Energy tells at all times, but in a century's march, seeking outlets for its life in every direction, excited by its more constant and direct consciousness of its daily life throughout the world and also better acquainted with the history of the past, it is filled with great popular movements and wide-reaching philanthropy and sympathy, a poet who infuses his work with vitality and seems to prize for its own sake breathes the air of the times. It is said that the purest artistic pleasure lies in contemplation; in action there is pleasure of another kind, more strenuous. A poet who sets forth the energy of life appeals to this latter sensibility, aroused through sympathy with the doing of a deed, rather than to the former, the desire to see the thing done, and disengagement of the mind. Browning himself, in many exhortatory verses, sets forth his claim to the status of strength; he is ever praising force for its own sake, in the vein of Carlyle; he likes to exhibit in others at its highest pitch. Our own age sympathizes with this spirit, and finds it more native to itself than the mood of contemplation, which is the condition of a more ideal art. Browning, however, has reinforced this powerful attraction by his own life, and only with great vital force, but upon the broadest scale. He works in the whole field of history, brings his reading in forgotten books to bear, and crowds the stage with a marvelously diverse gathering of great and obscure men, of artists and musicians, of Jew, Arab and Greek, of real and imaginary characters; and thus he has satisfied the intelligent curiosity of his readers, playing on the past of the race's history, and seeking to reconstruct it. He has dealt with the life of the present, and with the life of the past, in all needs of the mind, and has added to his observation a mass of reflection which keeps curiosity itself alive and supports it. He is possibly as much obliged to the intellect of his readers, to their practical sense, in a large portion of his writings.—(February Atlantic.)

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